

REPLY BRIEF TO OFFICE ACTION IN USSN 09/892,359 (CLEAN AMENDED CLAIMS COPY)

21. A rigid channel member of a variable length formed from sheet steel stock in which the three member sidewalls are generally planar throughout their length and adapted to be custom-fitted and conjoined with at least one rigid surface of another member, the channel member being provided with linear groovings along at least one planar surface to permit controlled separation of at least one sidewall thereof along the groovings, such channel member comprising:

(a) a transverse configuration which is rectangular in cross-section with one open sidewall and has open longitudinal ends; and

(b) a first pair of externally-placed, linear groovings arrayed in parallel with each of the grooving being located proximal to one of the two seams of the center sidewall, and the grooving being of a depth sufficient to facilitate separation under force of at least an initial finger of one sidewall end segment from the adjacent sidewall end segment, while maintaining the structural integrity of the transverse dimension of the separated sidewall end segment at the end point of separation.

24. A rigid, angle-shaped member of a variable length formed from sheet steel stock, in which the two member sidewalls are generally planar throughout their length and are adapted to be conjoined with at least one rigid surface of another member, comprising:

(a) a transverse configuration which is right angular in cross section, and has open longitudinal ends; and,

(b) a pair of externally-placed, linear groovings arrayed in parallel, with each of the groovings being located proximal to the one seam of the member and straddling said one seam of the member, and with each of the groovings being of a depth sufficient to facilitate separation

under force of an initial finger of one sidewall end segment from the other sidewall end segment, while maintaining the structural integrity of the transverse dimension of the separated sidewall end segment at the end point of separation.